CLAIMS

I claim the following invention:

1. ~~A control device~~ that translates a user's non-tactile movement into a ~~control action~~ comprising:

one or more conductor arrays connected to one or more surfaces, wherein said conductor array comprises two or more conductors;

wherein at least one of said conductor arrays comprises a first conductor that senses the user's non-tactile movement within a first plane along a first axis of said surface;

wherein at least one of said conductor arrays comprises a second conductor that senses the user's non-tactile movement within a second plane along a second axis, perpendicular to said first axis;

a converter that translates the sensed movement into three-dimensional vector data; and

a controller that correlates said three-dimensional vector data into control movement.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said converter comprises circuitry to determine the change in voltage in the dielectric area of said first and second conductors.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said converter comprises circuitry to measure the change in the ~~frequency of said~~ first and second conductors.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein said converter further comprises circuitry to heterodyne said frequency with a fixed oscillator.

5. A method of making an apparatus that translates a user's non-tactile movement into a control action comprising:

providing one or more surfaces;

providing one or more conductor arrays, wherein said conductor array comprises two or more conductors;

connecting one or more said conductor arrays to one or more said surfaces;

wherein at least one of said conductor arrays comprises a first conductor that senses the user's non-tactile movement within a first plane along a first axis of said surface;

wherein at least one of said conductor arrays comprises a second conductor that senses the user's non-tactile movement within a second plane along a second axis, perpendicular to said first axis;

providing a converter that translates said sensed movement into three-dimensional vector data;

coupling said converter to said conductors;

providing a controller that correlates said three-dimensional vector data into control movement; and

coupling said controller to said converter.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein said step of providing a converter further comprises providing circuitry to determine the change in voltage in the dielectric area of said conductors.

7. The method of Claim 5 wherein said step of providing a converter further comprises providing circuitry to measure the change in the frequency of said conductors.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said step of providing a converter further comprises providing circuitry that heterodynes said frequency with a fixed oscillator.

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9. A method that translates a user's non-tactile movement into a control action comprising:

sensing with a first conductor the user's non-tactile movement within a first plane along a first axis of a surface;

sensing with a second conductor the user's non-tactile movement within a second plane along a second axis, perpendicular to said first axis;

translating said sensed movement into three-dimensional vector data; and

correlating said three-dimensional vector data into control movement.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of translating further comprises determining the change in voltage in the dielectric area of said conductors.

11. ~~The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of translating further comprises measuring the change in the frequency of said conductors.~~

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said step of translating further comprises heterodyning said frequency with a fixed oscillator.

13. ~~A~~ program storage device readable by a machine, ~~tangibly embodying~~ a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps that translate a user's non-tactile movement into a control action, said method steps comprising the following steps:

sensing with a first conductor the user's non-tactile movement within a first plane along a first axis of a surface;

sensing with a second conductor the user's non-tactile movement within a second plane along a second axis, perpendicular to said first axis;

translating said sensed movement into three-dimensional vector data; and

correlating said three-dimensional vector data into control movement.

14. The program storage device of Claim 13 wherein said step of translating further comprises determining the change in voltage in the dielectric area of said conductors.

15. The program storage device of Claim 13 wherein said step of translating further comprises measuring the change in the frequency of said conductors.

16. The program storage device of Claim 15 wherein said step of translating further comprises heterodyning said frequency with a fixed oscillator.

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